



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes September 5, 2007

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, September 5, 2007, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Suzanne Casey, Greta Connor, Suzette Davis, Barbara Lawther, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Johnny Safrit, Bill Safrit, and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Diane Gibbs and Chad Morgan

Staff: Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

Barbara Perry, Chair, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the August 1 meeting and the Financial Report were approved as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara Perry said that a citizen had told her that the planters at the square were prettier than ever and asked if the traditional fall mums could be added to the existing foliage. Lynn had received an opposite comment a week ago. There has been a request for planters on Fisher Street.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- The Neighborhoods & Education Committee met Wednesday, August 29, 2007, at noon in the first floor conference room at City Hall.
- Mr. Bob Parnell will be invited to attend the Neighborhood Leaders Alliance meeting September 27, 2007, at 4 p.m. at One Water Street. He was Chair of the City staff Better Housing Committee that was formed by David Treme in response to the presentation that the Community Appearance Commission Neighborhood Leaders Subcommittee made to City Council last December about addressing deteriorating housing. The CAC efforts have been taken very seriously and the outcome will be a part of the City Council Retreat in 2008. Members are concerned about how long it is taking to see action concerning this matter.
- The Fall Spruce Up will be October 22-26.

- The Salisbury Neighborhood Action Group (SNAG) meeting at the Police Department was very spirited today. Greta assured SNAG that the City is aware of the problems residents brought up.
 - Long Street is filthy—what is the City’s role in cleaning the street?
 - Boarded up houses are real problems in many neighborhoods. Sarah Hawkins was tearful in her request for help cleaning up her neighborhood.
 - James Donaldson reported open gambling in front of his house.
 - SNAG members heard that letters of eviction are being acted upon.
- Residents of Old Salisbury had a covered dish social and a meeting. The neighbors were upset about the deterioration of rental housing and drew a petition requesting improvement in this area. The petition has been presented to City Council.

Art in Public Places

The History and Art Trail Committee did not meet in August because many people were out of town. They do plan to meet in September.

Landscaping

Many yards have suffered this summer due to the high temperatures and a long dry spell. Suzette Davis reported that Mary Ann McCubbin of 213 W. Monroe received the residential LOM award and Sonic Restaurant on W. Innes Street received the commercial LOM award last month. Both were very pleased to have their hard work and investment recognized.

The committee has not had an opportunity to meet. The Joseph C. Price home in the 700 block of Monroe Street is the residential winner; Barbara Lawther will call Blanche Sherrill. St. John’s is the commercial winner for September. (Bill Safrit will install the sign.)

Summerset Funeral Home has a well-maintained site that is well established. Walgreens at Faith Road will probably look good in the spring.

Please think of October winners relative to our October Tour visitors.

Grants

Bill Safrit and Barbara Perry met with City Council about the additional \$5,000 for the Thread Shed parking lot project. Council did not agree to funding the additional money; if an important prospect comes up later, please ask City Council at that time. In the meantime, Council approved funding the project \$15,000 from the regular Municipal Service District Grant & Innes Street Grant allocation.

MSD Grant

APPLICANT	ADDRESS	PROJECT AMT.	GRANT AMT.
Caniche	200 S. Main St.	\$ 25,200	\$ 5,000
Thread Shed	S. Main St.	\$ 32,000	\$ 5,000
<i>Potential applicants:</i>			
former Social Security Bldg.	202 N. Lee St.		
OK Wig	100 S. Main St.		
Kap Yang			
former Watkins Sports Equip.	214 S. Main St.		

Total Project Amounts \$ 57,200

Appropriation 7/01/07 \$ 22,000

Requested funds

Awarded funds (pending approval) \$ 10,000

Funds Remaining \$ 12,000

New Requested funds
remaining \$ 12,000

Innes Street Grant

APPLICANT	ADDRESS	PROJECT AMT.	GRANT AMT.
Caniche	200 S. Main St.	\$ 25,200	850
Salisbury Emporium	230 E. Kerr St.	\$ 9,866	4,933
Thread Shed	133 S. Main St.	\$ 32,000	10,000
Kress Building	300 S. Main St.	\$ 15,990	2,500
<i>Potential applicants:</i>			
former Bill's Bakery	128 E. Innes Street		
former Social Security Bldg.	202 N. Lee St.		

Total Project Amounts \$ 83,056.00

Appropriation 7/01/07 \$ 25,000.00

Requested funds

Awarded funds (pending approval) \$ 18,283.00

Funds Remaining \$ 6,717.00

Caniche has completed their project and turned in their paperwork. If the Empire Hotel should request a grant, that should be the project CAC approaches the City for additional funds.

Awards

The CAC/ Tree Board Awards Committee met in the first floor conference room August 21 at noon and will meet again Tuesday, September 12 at noon. The date of the CAC/Tree Board Awards Luncheon is February 27, 2008. Jim Dunn will be the speaker and will do a slide presentation on 25 years of Salisbury. A location and caterer has not yet been determined. The Hilliard Room and Livingstone College catering is an option Barbara Perry will look into.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The CAC LED Sign Committee made a recommendation to Planning Board not to allow this signage in the institutional zoning district. Johnny Safrit made a motion to accept the recommendation from the committee. He has done further research and found that these signs can be a traffic hazard as people try to read them. This type of signage goes against the sign ordinance Salisbury has in place. Lynn Raker added that LCD signs can also be very distracting. The CAC voted 9-0 to accept the committee recommendation to Planning Board.
- Lynn Raker reported on the interchange at I85 and Innes Street. The area looks awful and it is not maintained. We have no municipal agreement to maintain the area at this time. Tuesday she will meet with NCDOT representatives to look at the landscape plan and at a municipal agreement for that area. The installation will probably be in November of this year. The fence posts have been installed.
- The South Square Street Improvement Project road is fully functional. Lynn Raker presented before and after photos of Fisher Street. Barbara Lawther asked if the plan does include two-way traffic and parking on both sides. Lynn said the parking will now be on one side. The corner lot parking area has begun. Even though the project went over budget due to some subgrade issues in the roadway, which we had to fix, the Council has graciously allowed the use of other funding that they do not anticipate needing this year.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting will be October 3, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Moghrabi
Secretary